

ABSTRACT

A credential is translated with one of different credential provider modules each translating a corresponding different type of credential into a common protocol. The translated credential is communicated through an API to a logon UI module to an operating system (OS) of a local machine. An OS logon module is called by the logon UI module to authenticate the translated credential against a credential database. A user identified by the translated credential is logged on to access the local machine when the authentication is successful. The credential can also be used with a selection received from the logon UI module via a corresponding one of different pre-log access provider (PLAP) modules that each communicate with the API. The API establishes a network session with an access service specified by the selected PLAP module when the credential is authenticated with the credential database.